

In the Claims:

1. (Original) Process for the preparation of an oxidic catalyst composition comprising a trivalent metal, a divalent metal and - calculated as oxide and based on the total weight of the composition – more than 18 wt% of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of rare earth metal compounds, phosphorus compounds, and transition metal compounds, which process comprises the following steps:
 - a) preparing a sodium-free precursor solution comprising (i) a compound 1 being a trivalent metal salt, (ii) a compound 2 being a divalent metal salt, and (iii) a compound 3 which is different from compounds 1 and 2 and is selected from the group consisting of rare earth metal salts, water-soluble phosphorus compounds, and transition metal salts,
 - b) forming a precipitate from the solution of step a) by adding a sodium-free base to the precursor solution,
 - c) optionally aging the precipitate,
 - d) drying the precipitate, and
 - e) calcining the dried precipitate.
2. (Original) A process according to claim 1 wherein the sodium-free base added in step b) is ammonium hydroxide.
3. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the precipitate is aged in step c) without anionic clay being formed.
4. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the divalent metal of compound 2 is selected from the group consisting of Mg, Ca, Ba, Zn, Ni, Cu, Co, Fe, Mn, and mixtures thereof.
5. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the trivalent metal of compound 1 is selected from the group consisting of Al, Ga, Fe, Cr, and mixtures thereof.
6. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein compound 3 is a compound comprising a metal selected from the group consisting of Cu, Zn, Zr, Ti, Ni, Co, Fe, Mn, Cr, Mo, W, V, Pt, Ru, Rh, Ce, La, and mixtures thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 6 wherein compound 3 is present in the composition in a total amount of 18 to 60 wt%, calculated as oxide and based on the total composition.
8. (Currently Amended) Oxidic catalyst composition obtainable by the process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1.
9. (Original) An oxidic catalyst composition according to claim 8 wherein the divalent metal is Mg and the MgO reflection at 43° 2-theta in the Powder X-Ray Diffraction pattern - measured with Cu K- α radiation - has a full width at half maximum of less than 1.5° 2-theta.
10. (Original) An oxidic catalyst composition according to claim 9 wherein the full width at half maximum is less than 1.0° 2-theta, preferably less than 0.6° 2-theta, more preferably less than 0.4° 2-theta.
11. (Currently Amended) Catalyst particle comprising the oxidic catalyst composition according to ~~any one of claims 8-10~~ claim 8, a matrix or filler material, and a molecular sieve.
12. (Curently Amended) Use of the oxidic catalyst composition of ~~any one of claims 8-10~~ claim 8 ~~or the catalyst particle of claim 11~~ in a fluid catalytic cracking process.
13. (New) Use of the catalyst particle of claim 11 in a fluid catalytic cracking process.